



Wilson Creek Sub-basin Project

Presentation to
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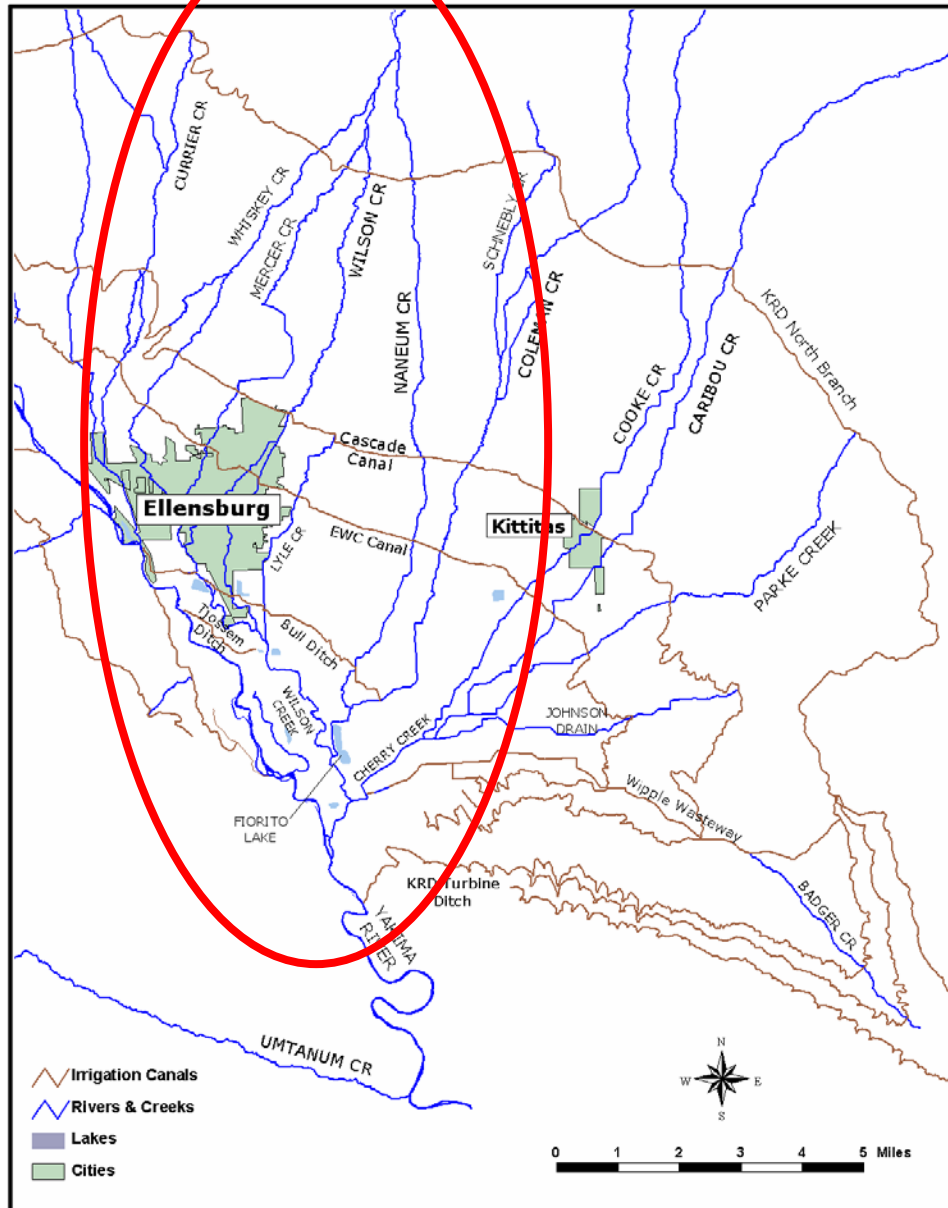
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Disclaimer



Wilson Creek Sub-basin Project



- The Wilson Creek Sub-Basin Project envisions a comprehensive program of land and water conservation and restoration initiatives that will result in:
 - increased water in-stream,
 - enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and
 - improved irrigation efficiencies for landowners in the sub-basin

(draft) Mission

- To create an integrated network of land and water conservation, irrigation efficiency, and fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities that will be undertaken by project partners resulting in comprehensive landscape-scale enhancements benefiting both the natural and built environments.

Basin Background

- approximately 244,500 acres (394 sq. miles)
- forestland, range, and intensively irrigated agriculture
- urban and suburban areas
- network of supply canals, diversions, and irrigation return drains

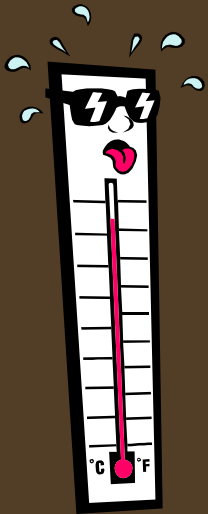
Wilson Creek Sub-basin is Key

- Priority watershed in several water quality improvement plans (aka TMDLs*)
- Actions supporting the Wilson Creek Sub-basin Initiative will help to improve water quality

***TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load
= community-based water cleanup plan**

Water Quality Impairments in the Wilson Creek Sub-basin

- Suspended sediment and turbidity
- Pesticides: DDT, DDE and dieldrin
- Fecal coliform bacteria
- Temperature
- Dissolved oxygen
- pH



The Water Puzzle

- Balancing demands for water
 - Pressures to sell to development
- Irrigation for working farmlands and instream flows are both important
- Fluctuations in flow – use of creeks as canals
- Potential: Flexibility in flow enhancement timing dependent on target species and habitat availability

The Water Holders

- Overlapping creek rights and district rights – common throughout subbasin
 - Learning curve for landowners
 - Changes value / incentive for participation
 - Makes a difference with instream protection capacity
 - Districts' participation would be helpful (need critical mass)
- Trust Water Transfers – challenge for enforcement (Ecology)

Our Challenge to You: How do we Expand Our Reach?

- Is the Wilson Creek Sub-Basin Project a good idea?
- If so...
 - How do we work together...better, smarter, more coordinateder 😊?
 - How can we pool our collective expertise?
 - Who will facilitate? YBFWRB?
 - How do we help Kittitas County which:
 - Doesn't have a conservation futures program
 - Doesn't do open space or recreation planning
 - Regularly divests itself of open space